

Amendments to the Specification

- 1) Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, line 3:
This application is a § 371 of International PCT Application PCT/FR2004/001526,
filed June 18, 2004.
- 2) Please insert the following subtitle at page 1, below the above-referenced paragraph:
Field of the Invention

- 3) Please insert the following subtitle at page 1, line 9:
Background

- 4) Please insert the following subtitle and accompanying text at page 2, line 27:
Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides an expansion valve block for controlling or adjusting the pressure or flow rate of a fluid. The expansion valve block comprises a main body within which at least one internal fluid passage between at least one fluid inlet orifice and at least one fluid outlet orifice is formed; at least one fluid-pressure control means arranged on at least part of said internal fluid passage, the internal fluid passage between said pressure control means and the fluid inlet orifice forming an upstream circuit and the internal fluid passage between said pressure control means and the fluid outlet orifice forming a downstream circuit; at least one first fluid flow rate control means arranged on at least part of the downstream circuit; at least one second fluid flow rate control means arranged on at least part of the upstream circuit; and at least one command means for causing a fluid to flow in the passage, wherein the command means collaborates with the first and second fluid flow rate control means in such a way that, when the operator commands delivery of a fluid in the passage, the opening of the upstream circuit by the second control means occurs before the opening of the downstream circuit by the first control means and, when the operator commands the stopping of the delivery of a fluid in the passage, closure of the downstream circuit by the first control means occurs before closure of the upstream circuit by the second control means. The present

invention further provides a pressurized-fluid vessel equipped with said expansion valve block. The present invention even further provides a method for delivering a fluid in an expansion valve block and a method for stopping delivery of a fluid in an expansion valve block.

- 5) Please insert the following subtitle and accompanying text at page 2 below the Summary of the Invention and accompanying text:

Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 provides a view in cross section of the expansion valve block according to the invention.

Figure 2 provides a partial sectional view of the expansion valve block according to the invention.

- 6) Please insert the following subtitle at page 2, below the Brief Description of the Figures and accompanying text:

Detailed Description of the Invention

- 7) Please replace the subtitle at page 28, line 1, with the following text:

~~CLAIMS~~ What is claimed is: